

**Written Testimony of Donald Crawford
Automobile Worker from Pendleton, Indiana**

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight
Subcommittee on National Economic Growth,
Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs**

April 23, 1998

Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, my name is Don Crawford and I come here to&y representing myself, and to testify because of my concerns over the Global Climate Change Treaty that was recently negotiated in Kyoto, Japan. I work as a model-maker in the automotive parts division of Guide Lamp, a company that designs and manufactures automobile lighting for General Motors. I am also a member of the United Auto Workers union.

I have a wife and 3 children, and I live in Pendleton, Indiana. Pendleton is a small community whose economy is mostly based on agriculture and the auto industry.

After reviewing the projected changes the Global Warming Treaty will bring about in America, I feel this treaty could destroy many industries, but none more so than agriculture and the automobile industry.

The energy crisis of the seventies caused Anderson to be the unemployment capital of the United States. It devastated the factories and they will never recover. Delco Remy went *from 16,000* employees in 1972, to 8,000 employees in 1980, then to 2,500 employees to&y. Guide Lamp, where I am employed, went from 4,500 employee in 1972, to 3,500 employees in 1980, down to 2,800 employees today.

Many of these jobs went overseas and to Mexico, because of treaties such as The Kyoto Protocol, which are unfair to American workers.

Another sad consequence of this trend, which is too often overlooked, is the loss of jobs for our young people. Before the energy crisis, young people in the Pendleton area were secure in staying in central Indiana because of good factory jobs. To&y, the average age of factory workers in this

part of the country is 43. My own 3 children are moving out of Indiana because of the lack of decent job opportunities.

Because of higher fuel prices, many of the farmers in Indiana went deeply in debt to buy newer, more fuel efficient equipment. The farmers from my state just can't take another drastic regulatory hit and continue to stay in business.

Today we are being told we are not just citizens of the United States, but also citizens of the world. I can accept the thinking behind that, and as a citizen of the world, I am concerned about global pollution. This treaty just encourages us to export our fossil fuel emissions to Third World countries, along with our jobs. It does not make sense.

It is well-known that there are factories located north and south on the **Rio Grande** River, which are owned by the same company. The factory on the north side of the river must be clean, and has standards for pollution that are strictly enforced. The factory on the south side is filthy, and has loose pollution standards that are not enforced. All the Kyoto Protocol seems to do is encourage those companies to move their entire operation out of the U.S.

As a world citizen I am also concerned about our food supply. If the proposed pollution restrictions drive more of my farming neighbors out of business, who will feed the world. Can these emerging nations begin producing the tens of billions of bushels of grain the farmers in the Midwest grow for the world each year? Can they do it in a less polluting manner than we do?

I believe we need treaties that make all countries meet the same standards. The so-called emerging nations need to develop as non-polluters. The Kyoto

Protocol as written, encourages just the opposite.

Higher fuel prices; higher food costs; higher prices for all goods produced in the United States, will hit no one in our society harder than the young, the old and the poor. *Fewer* jobs opportunities caused by factories moving to countries not covered by this treaty, will hurt our young just coming into the work force. The elderly living on fixed incomes will be paying more for **goods**, food, energy and transportation. The poor will just have to do with less.

I want a pollution-free world for my children and their children, but what we need are treaties that cause all polluting nations to have the same standards. I don't see that happening with this treaty. I hope that it will not be adopted by our **government** in its current form.

I appreciate the fact that I could come **here and** be heard **on this** important issue. Also, I have not received any federal grants or contracts in the fiscal year 1998.

Mr. Chairman, and **members** of this subcommittee, I want to thank you for taking the time to hear **my** concerns regarding the Kyoto Protocol.